

Skippy and Tria

Adventure to

Perea Cave



Story and Art by
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In

the forest, there once lived two best friends.

One was a monkey named Skippy and the other was a parrot named Tria. The pair loved to measure things, whether it was animals, trees, or rocks. They even carried around their own measuring tape. Skippy and Tria loved to explore the big, green forest just as much as they loved to measure.



One year, it didn't rain for days, weeks, and eventually months. The water was drying up fast, and everyone had hardly enough to eat. Skippy and Tria decided to explore the forest in hope that they would find another source of water and food for the animals. Skippy, scouting from the trees, suddenly saw a mysterious cave blocked by tall bushes.



"Wow! How strange... I've never noticed there was a cave in this forest!" exclaimed Skippy.

"And what creepy statues!" said Tria with a shudder. By the entrance of the cave, they saw a sign that said,

"Strangers beware, the power of Perea Cave. Go through this maze and you may find, great rewards beyond your minds. But one wrong turn and you may be, lost forever as you will see."



WHAM! Coughing, Skippy and Tria landed on a dirt floor. Before them, the two friends saw three rectangular doors, each one similar to the other. Near one of the doors, they saw a message on the wall.

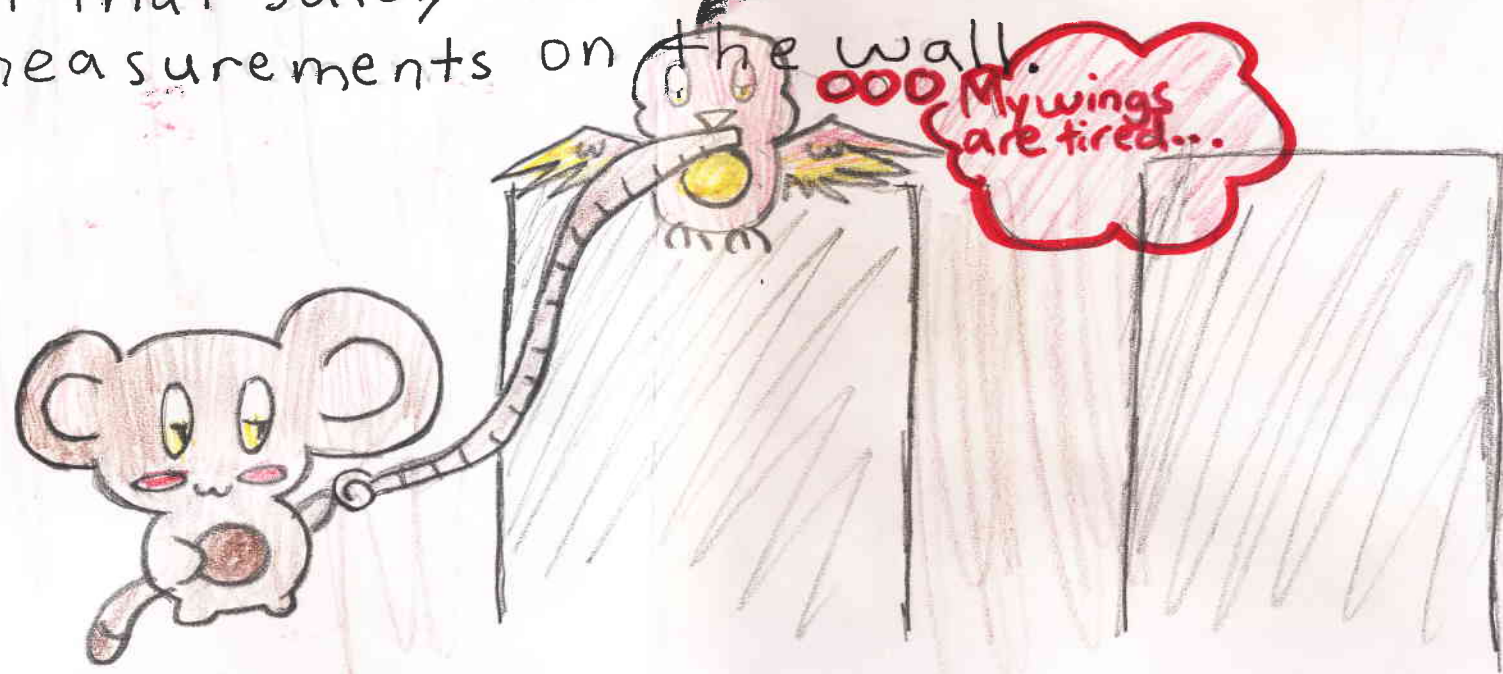
"If you seek the right path, find the biggest length around using math."



"Hmmm... The biggest length around must be referring to the **perimeter** of the doors, which is the distance around a shape," said Tria.

"And since we know these doors are in the shape of rectangles, the opposite sides should have the same measurements," said Skippy.

With that said, the two went to work, recording their measurements on the wall.

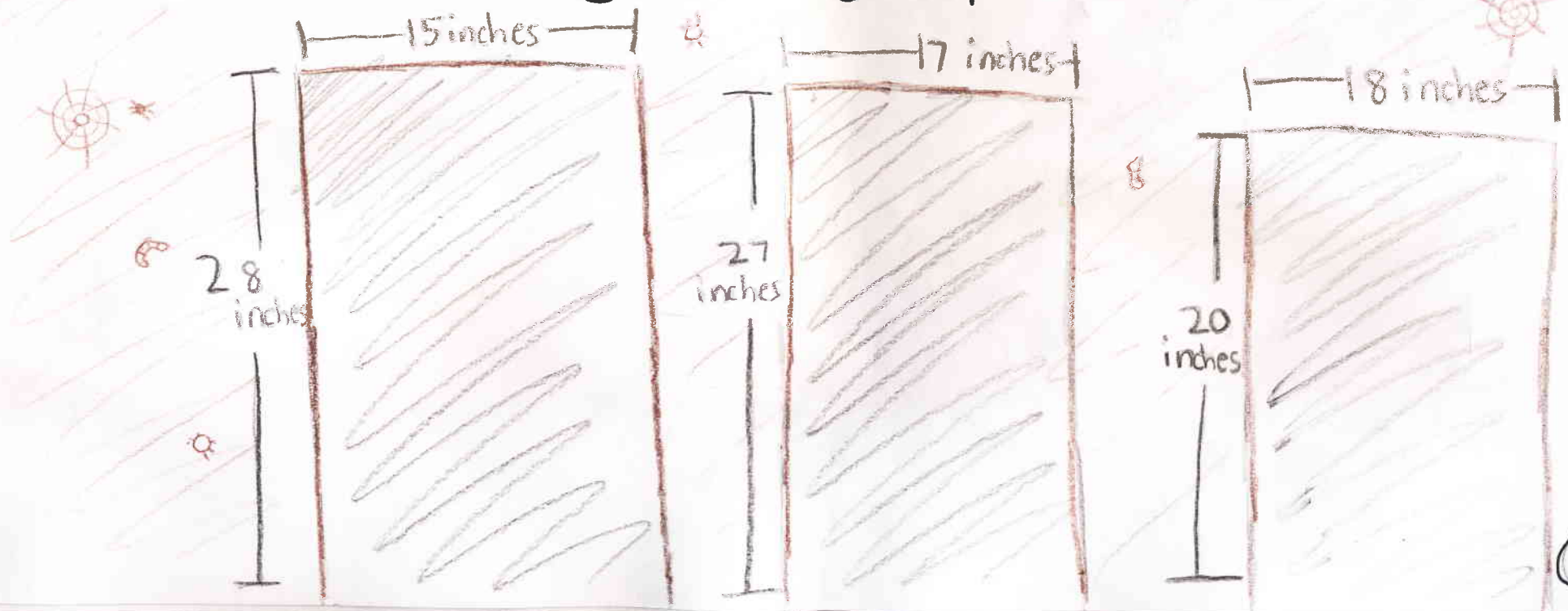


Lo and behold, they found that the first door's width equaled 15 inches. The height was 28 inches. So the perimeter was $2(15) + 2(28) = 86$ inches.

The second door's width equaled 17 inches. Its height was 27 inches. So the perimeter was $2(17) + 2(27) = 88$ inches.

The last door's width was 18 inches, and the height was 20 inches. So the perimeter was $2(18) + 2(20) = 76$ inches.

This meant the second door was the biggest! The friends hurriedly ran through that door, faintly hearing the fluttering of wings up ahead...



Upon arriving at their new destination, the friends found two butterflies with triangular shaped wings resting upon a rock. Before them were two tunnels, each leading a different way. It seemed like one of the butterflies could show them the way! Once again, there was a clue left on the wall that said,

"From these two creatures you must find, the one whose wings possess the largest area with your mind."



"The wings of the butterflies are shaped like triangles!" exclaimed Skippy.

"Triangles?" wailed Tria. "What are we supposed to do now? Our measuring tape only finds widths and heights, not areas!"

A sudden idea popped in Skippy's mind. He carefully picked up one of the butterflies and held one of its wings against the wall, drawing an exact copy of the triangle right beside it. He noticed that one of the butterfly's wings along with the triangle he drew formed a parallelogram.



"Well," said skippy, "the area of a parallelogram is equal to the product of the base and height. Since one of the butterfly's wings is equal to HALF of the parallelogram, the area must be one-half of the base times the height!"

The two friends hurriedly began to measure the height and base of each of the butterfly's wings.

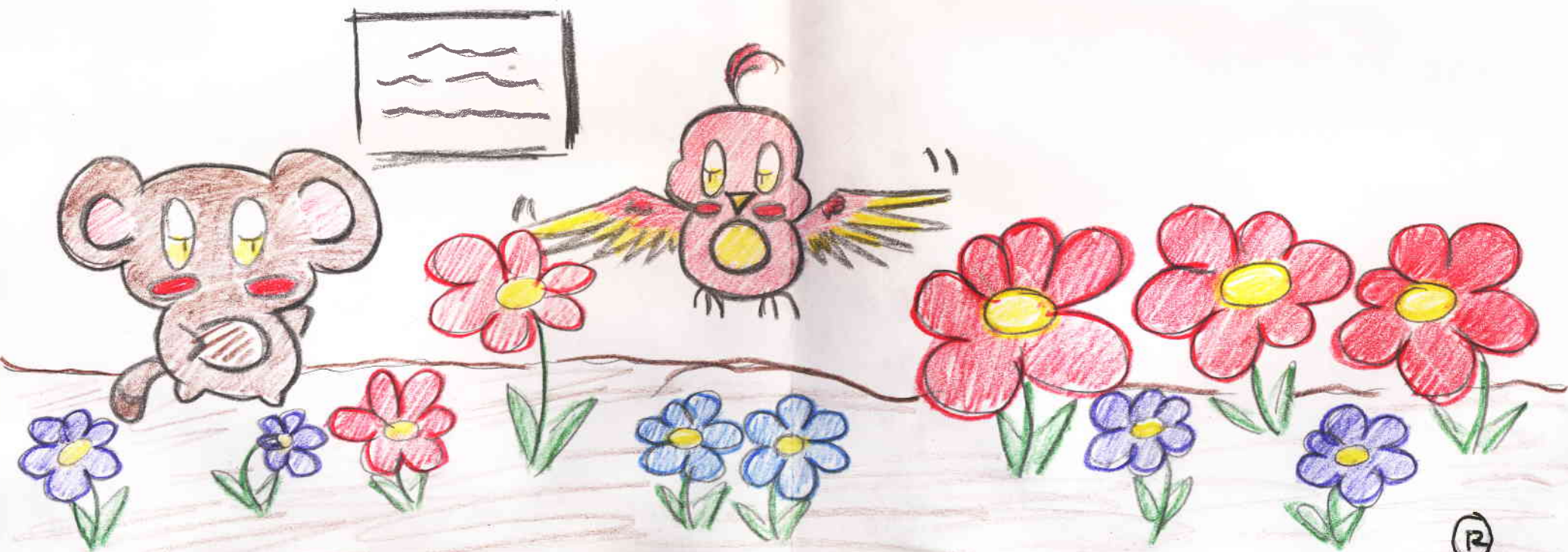


Together, they found that the height of the first butterfly's wings was 3 inches and the base was 5.5 inches. For the second butterfly, the height was 3.8 inches and the base was 5.4 inches. $\frac{1}{2}(3 \times 5.5) = 8.25$ inches and $\frac{1}{2}(3.8 \times 5.4) = 10.26$ inches.

The wings of the second butterfly was bigger! That butterfly flew into the air toward the first tunnel, and the two friends followed close behind.



Skippy and Tria stepped into a room filled with flowers, making the air smell sweet like perfume. They frantically looked around but to their surprise, there was NO exit! Being careful not to step on any flowers, they made their way to yet another message on the wall. This one said, "to complete the journey, you must pluck the flower with the largest center, so test your luck."



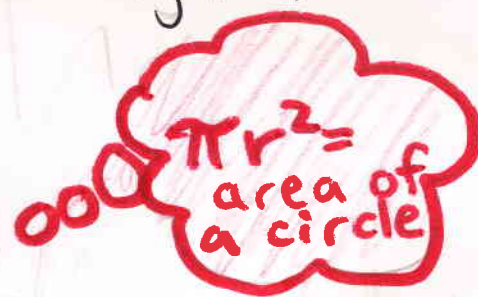
Tria groaned and looked at all the flowers around her. There were just too many flowers!

"Let's see, how about we narrow the possibilities to three flowers?" said Skippy.

Tria nodded and said, "That's a good start."

They set their sights on three humongous flowers in the corner.

"To find which flower has the largest center, we must use the formula πr^2 , where π is 3.14 and r stands for the radius, or half of the length of the segment in a circle which crosses through the center point."



Tria and Skippy measured each flower's radius. The first flower had a radius of 3 inches. The second had a radius of 3.3 inches. The last flower had a radius of 2.8 inches.

$$\pi(3)^2 = 28.26$$

$$\pi(3.3)^2 = 34.1946$$

$$\pi(2.8)^2 = 24.6176$$

The second flower had the largest center!
With shaking hands, Skippy plucked the flower...



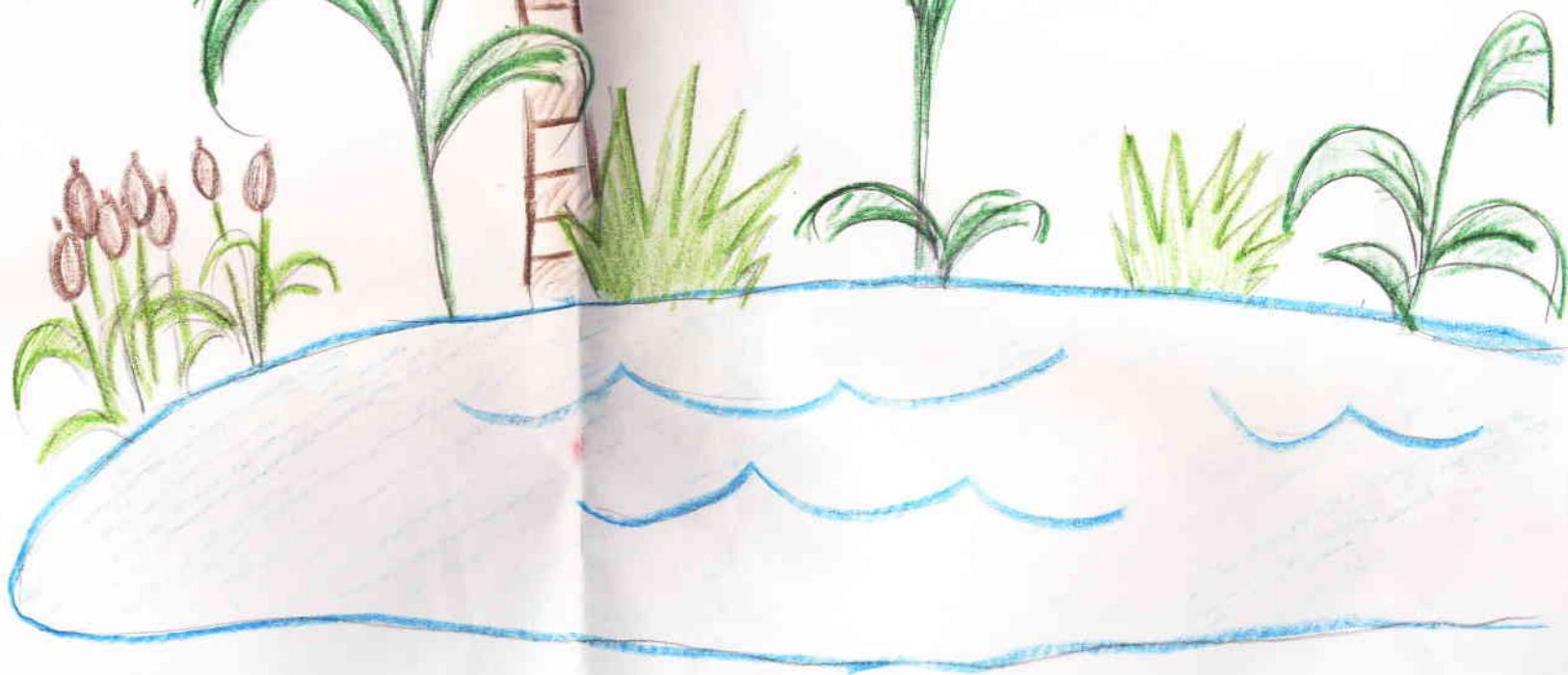
RUMBLE!

The floor shook violently as the walls of the room started to rise. Rock debris flew everywhere. And what did they see after the walls rose up?

"RUMBLE!"



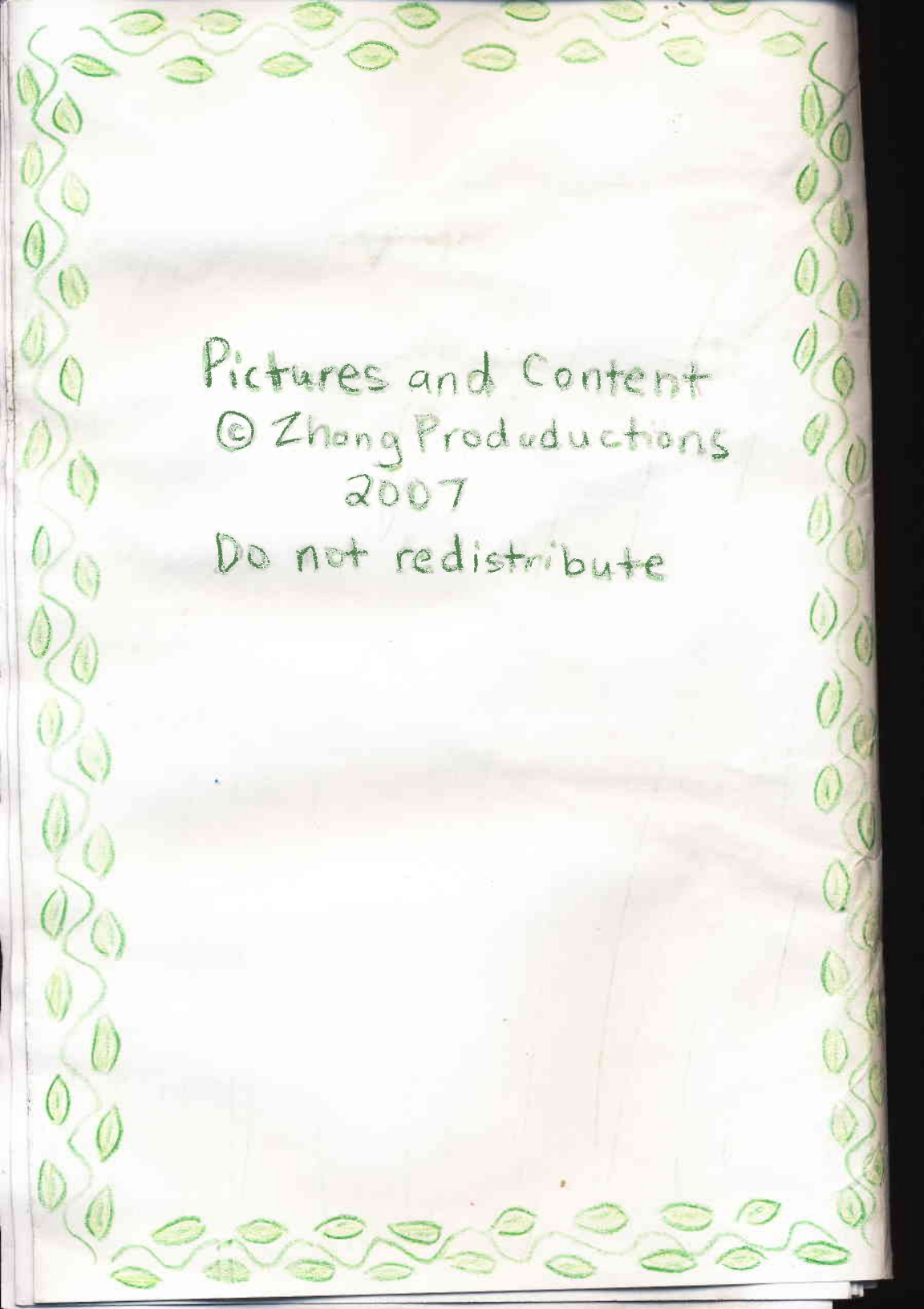
A LAND OF PARADISE!



Tria and SKippy brought everyone to their paradise place, which as it turned out, was the inside of an extinct volcano.

To this day, the two heroes are remembered among the forest animals, their legend passed on from generation to generation. And you, dear reader, can pass this story on to others.



A decorative border made of small, hand-drawn green leaves with yellow centers, arranged in a wavy pattern around the edges of the page.

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